

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 1109

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213815

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 23727 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MANILA
KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE JAKARTA TOKYO DATED AUG 22:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23727

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, ASEAN, TH

SUBJ: RTG REACTION TO US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. SINCE THE THAI DELEGATION'S RETURN, WE HAVE HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE WASHINGTON MINISTERIAL MEETING
WITH FONMIN UPPADIT, MFA UNDER SECRETARY ARUN AND FINANCE
UNDER SECRETARY CHANCHAI. COMMERCE DEPUTY SECRETARY PROK
HAS LEFT FOR NEW DELHI TO ATTEND THE ESCAP REGIONAL TRADE
CONFERENCE BUT EMBASSY ESCAP OFFICER ALSO ATTENDING THAT
MEETING WILL ATTEMPT TO GET HIS REACTION DIRECTLY. PRIME
MINISTER'S SATISFACTION HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED.

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2. DURING AUGUST 16 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, FONMIN
UPPADIT EXPRESSED HIS COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE
WASHINGTON MEETINGS AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE VERY WARM
HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION WHICH THE ASEAN MINISTERS RECEIVED.
HE PARTICULARLY NOTED MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT,
SECRETARY AND OTHER US CABINET MEMBERS AS WELL AS VERY

USEFUL SESSIONS WITH THE MAJOR CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES. IN THAT REGARD HE FELT PARTICULARLY THAT HIS MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN EILBERG HAD BEEN PRODUCTIVE. UPPADIT DID NOTE WRYLTY THAT IN ONE OR TWO OF HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES AND MAJOR AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, THEY WERE UNCERTAIN AS TO WHET ASEAN IS OR WHAT ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE US IS.

3. IN DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF THE MEETING AND THE AREAS OF POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP, UPPADIT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING US INVESTMENT. HE INDICATED THAT HE GAVE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE UPCOMING VISITS OF EXPORT IMPORT BANK PRESIDENT MOORE AND THE OPIC SPONSORED ROBINSON BUSINESS GROUP. UPPADIT SAID THAT IT IS IN THIS AREA MORE THAN ANY OTHER THAT HE HOPED TO SEE CONCRETE PROGRESS.

4. UPPADIT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE BROUGHT UP HIS EARLIER RESERVATIONS ABOUT ATTENDING THE WASHINGTON MINISTERIAL MEETING. HE MADE CLEAR THAT THE MEETING, AND THE ATTENTION GIVEN ASEAN LEADERS BY THE USG, HAD COMPLETELY DISSIPATED HIS CONCERNS. UPPADIT WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION HE HAD GOTTEN.

5. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH MFA UNDER SECRETARY ARUN, HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE RTG DELEGATION HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPRESSED BY THE RECEPTION THEY RECEIVED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG. LIKE UPPADIT HE FELT THAT MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS HAD ALSO BEEN VERY USEFUL. ARUN SAID THAT OVERALL HE FELT THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING HAD NOT LED TO ANY DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS BUT NONE HAD BEEN EXPECTED. HE NOTED THAT THE ASEAN DELEGATION FELT THERE HAD BEEN THREE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- A. THE PUBLIC "POLITICAL COMMITMENT" BY THE USG TO ASEAN;
- B. THE USG COMMITMENT TO PROCEED CONSTRUCTIVELY TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON THE COMMON FUND AND,
- C. THE MAJOR EXPOSURE GIVEN ASEAN WITH CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

6. FINANCE UNDER SECRETARY CHANCHAI'S REMARKS WERE SIMILAR TO ARUN'S, WITH CHANCHAI ALSO STRESSING THE WARMTH OF THE RECEPTION GIVEN THE ASEAN MINISTERS, THE HIGH LEVEL US PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETINGS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET A WIDE RANGE OF MAJOR US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIGURES.

7. COMMENT: NEITHER UPPADIT NOR ARUN ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE CONCRETE ECONOMIC ISSUES INVOLVING THE US AND

ASEAN. WE EXPECT THAT DEPUTY COMMERCE MINISTER PROK'S
REACTIONS WILL BE MORE HEAVILY FOCUSSED ON THESE MATTERS.
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